

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3260
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Annual Renewal for TV Channels
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- a) whether it is a fact that recently in bid to slash red tap the Government has completely done away with the process of obtaining an "Annual Renewal" for TV channels in the current form, a move that would benefit more than 900 channels and if so, the details thereof; and
- b) whether the Government was fully committed to the vision of the Government and the Prime Minister to promote ease of doing business and would continue to take more steps in consultation with stakeholders and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING { COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.) }

(a) In conformity with the Policy Guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels in India Government has decided that the broadcasters which hold valid permission for uplinking and/or downlinking, shall not require to obtain annual Renewal Permission from the Ministry. The payment of annual permission fee, 60 days before the due date will by itself be sufficient permission for continuation of a channel for a further period of one year from the due date. All the TV channels and Teleports are likely to benefit from this decision provided the validity of 10-year permission is available.

(b) In addition to the above this Ministry has taken following initiatives to promote the ease of doing business in view of commitment to the vision of the Government and Prime Minister:

i) The restrictions imposed under clauses 2.1.4 and 3.1.15 of the Uplinking Guidelines dated 05th December, 2011 and clause 1.10 of the Downlinking Guidelines dated 05th December, 2011 regarding appointment at top management position with minimum 3 years of prior experience in a media company (media companies) operating News/Non-News and Current Affairs TV Channels has been done away with.

ii) It has also been decided that in view of the exemption mentioned in Master Circular of RBI dated 01.07.2014, regarding the Exchange Earner's Foreign Currency (EEFC) account holders, the broadcasters and Teleport Operators who have EEFC account, may now make payment in foreign exchange towards availing transponder services on foreign satellite for uplinking of TV channels/Teleports/DSNG Vans, to the Satellite service providers without approval of Ministry of I & B.
